REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-6, 8, 10 and 14-17 were amended herein; claims 21-22 were added.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph (Written Description)

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as containing subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a manner as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s) had possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action objects to the limitation "a block based memory allocation unit." While the drawings do not contain a block corresponding to that feature, that limitation is in the claims as originally filed. Accordingly, the specification (including the claims) as filed inherently contains a written description of that limitation.

Nonetheless, the claims have been amended herein for clarity.

Therefore, rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph has been overcome.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph (Definiteness)

Claims 3 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that it is not clear what is meant by "a selected limited number

of memory blocks." However, the specification as filed states:

> Different criteria may be set for determining when to stop allocation [of] blocks to a given hash table, the simplest of which is to pre-assign a fixed (maximum) number of blocks n and stop when all of those blocks are allocated to the hash table, an approach reducing design risks.

Specification, ¶ [0028]. Similarly Figure 3 of the drawings depicts the fixed (maximum) number of blocks "n." Accordingly, there is no basis for asserting that one skilled in the art would not understand what is meant by "a selected limited number of memory blocks."

Nonetheless, claims 3 and 16 have been amended herein.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 3 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph has been overcome.

35 U.S.C. § 102 (Anticipation)

Claims 1-3, 5-16 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,665,297 to *Hariguchi et al.* This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. MPEP § 2131 at p. 2100-67 (8th ed. rev. 6 September 2007).

Independent claims 1 and 10 each recite that each hash table is allocated a group of memory blocks based on a size of the respective hash table. Similarly, independent claim 14 recites that a number of memory blocks allocated to a hash table is based on a size of the respective hash table. Such a feature is not found in the cited reference.

Claims 5 and 15 each recite that each hash table is allocated the smallest number of

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memory blocks sufficient to hold prefixes for which no collision occurs within the respective hash table. Such a feature is not found in the cited reference.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-3, 5-16 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 has been overcome.

35 U.S.C. § 103 (Obviousness)

Claims 4 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over *Hariguchi et al* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,625,612 to *Tal et al*. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In *ex parte* examination of patent applications, the Patent Office bears the burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness. MPEP § 2142, p. 2100-127 (8th ed. rev. 6 September 2007). Absent such a *prima facie* case, the applicant is under no obligation to produce evidence of nonobviousness. *Id.*

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met: First, there must be some reason – such as a suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art – to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. *Id.*

As noted above, independent claims 1 and 14, from which the rejected claims depend, recite features not found in *Hariguchi et al*. Such features are also not found in *Tal et al*.

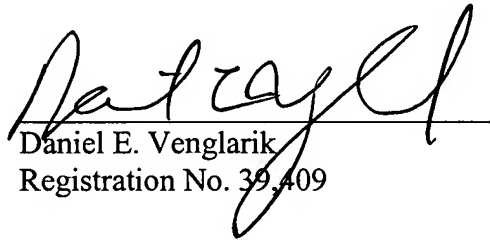Therefore, the rejection of claims 4 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has been overcome.

If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *dvenglarik@munckbutrus.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication (including any extension of time fees) or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

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